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24th
NATIONAL
FARM
SAFETY
WEEK

JULY
23-29
1967



**KEEP
YOUR SIGHTS
ON SAFETY**

SAFE USE OF FIREARMS . . .

- Good sport
- Good exercise
- Relaxation
- Tests skill
- Develops companionship
- Gives pride of accomplishment
- May provide food

FACTS . . .

- There are more than 14 million licensed hunters in the United States.
- Nearly 205,000 Americans enjoy other sport and competition shooting.
- Americans own 50 to 60 million guns.
- There were 2,275 fatalities and 120,000 injuries due to accidents with firearms in 1964.

Sponsors: The National Safety Council and the U. S. Department of Agriculture with the cooperation of other agencies promoting safety among farm people.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE





Treat Every Gun As if Loaded

- Never point a gun at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- Keep action open when gun is not in use.
- If you become careless with an unloaded gun you might be careless with a loaded gun.
- Playing with guns is dangerous anywhere, anytime.



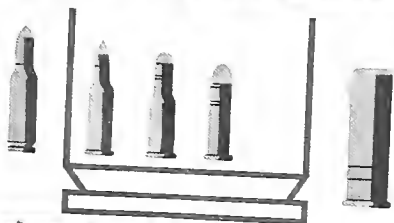
Tips for Hunters

- Wear bright, blaze-orange hat and vest so you can be seen easily by other hunters.
- When crossing fence alone, unload the gun and lay it down. Get over fence, then retrieve gun, stock first.
- When crossing fence with a companion, have one person hold both guns with muzzle up while the other gets over the fence.
- Unload the gun or open the action before you cross or jump a ditch or small stream.
- Keep muzzle pointed forward, either up or down, not horizontal, while carrying gun.
- Constantly check area for other people, houses, and livestock.
- Keep gun barrel free of snow, mud or other restrictions.
- Know the location of your companions at all times.
- Be sure it's game before you aim.



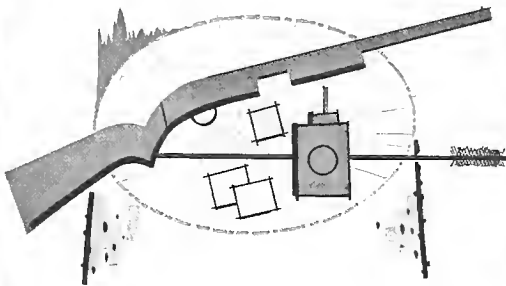
Be Physically Capable and Mentally Alert

- Don't use firearms when fatigued, ill or taking strong medicines.
- A well rested shooter is both more accurate and safer.
- Alcohol and gunpowder **don't** mix!
- Persons with serious physical impairments such as heart trouble, visual defects or shakiness should not use firearms without consulting physician and taking adequate precautions.



Use the Right Ammunition

- Don't mix cartridge sizes together at any time.
- Use correct ammunition made for your caliber and type of gun.
- Choose the most effective type of ammunition for your purpose.



Don't Fire an Unsafe Gun

- Keep your gun well maintained and in good operating condition. Have a gunsmith make any needed repairs.
- Shotguns with Damascus, laminated or twisted steel barrels may be dangerous with modern ammunition.
- Old guns or second-hand guns may have defective actions—make sure they are “tight” and operating properly before using.
- Be careful about some firearms brought back from foreign countries after World War II—many have thin barrels that won't take modern ammunition.

Ready . . . Aim . . . Fire!

- Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.
- Don't shoot at water, rocks or other flat, hard surfaces from which bullets could ricochet.
- Keep “safety” on until ready to fire gun.
- Keep finger out of trigger guard until ready to fire.



When You've Finished Shooting . . .

- Remove magazine and any cartridge from chamber.
- Be sure barrel is empty and clean.
- Leave action open, on “safe” or with firing pin released.
- If you lay the gun down, lay it flat with action open—don't lean it against a tree, wall or car.

When Transporting Guns . . .

- Remove ammunition.
- Keep muzzle pointed in safe direction.
- Position gun so it can't fall.
- Place in gun case if available.

Keep Children, Guns and Ammunition Apart

- Be sure firearms are unloaded.
- Store firearms in a locked cabinet or a place inaccessible to children.
- Store ammunition in a separate locked location.
- Instruct children to leave firearms alone and never to play with them.

U.S. FIREARM FATALITIES (ACCIDENTS) IN 1964*

Home	1,175
Farm	238
Streets and highway	96
Public buildings	69
Industrial location	22
Recreation and sport	18
Mine and quarry	14
Resident institution	5
Other specified place	354
Not specified	284
Total	2,275

* Includes dynamite, bombs and grenades (less than 3%)

STUDY OF 173 HOME

Place and activity	Total	Gun discharged by:	
		Victim	Another Person*
Playing with gun	49	18	31
Examining or demonstrat- ing gun	25	9	16
Cleaning or repairing gun	22	14	8
Russian roulette	11	11	—
Picking up or setting down gun	9	9	—
Loading or unloading gun	9	7	2
Tripping or falling with guns	7	6	1
Scuffling for possession of gun	5	1	4
Total	173	81	77**

* 15 cases were unspecified

** Member of victim's family in 43 cases

(From Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. Statistical Bulletin)

Of 7,530 hunting casualties reported to the National Rifle Association, the following were the 12 major causes of the accidents:

Victim out of sight of shooter	1,075
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	827
Shooter stumbled and fell	714
Victim mistaken for game	655
Victim moved into line of fire	429
Trigger caught on brush or other object	331
Removing weapon from or placing in vehicle	291
Ricochet	278
Defective weapon	274
Weapon fell from insecure rest	224
Riding in vehicle with loaded weapon	223
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded weapon	216

Tips for Homemakers:

- Understand how the firearm "safety" works—how to unload and check for load.
- Don't let anyone leave a gun lying around the house or standing in a corner. Have user put it in safe storage.
- Teach all members of your family respect for guns.
- Be sure guns and ammunition are stored separately and kept locked.
- Remember, almost half of firearm victims are under 20 years of age, and 9 out of 10 victims are males. You can help protect your loved ones.

